

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAIROB 12957 191457Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 SS-15 PRS-01

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O 191410Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4175

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

INFO COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

COMIDEASTFOR

CNO WASHINGTON DC

CMC WASHINGTON DC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

USNMR SHPAE BE

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

CGFMFLANT NORFOLK VA

COMNAVAILANT NORFOLK VA

COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA

USS GUAM

CINCUSAFLTE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T NAIROBI 12957

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, US, KE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MOMBASA GUAM VISIT

AND NAIROBI FLY-BY

REF: (A) STATE 280534 (152211Z NOV 76), (B) USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

GERMANY 180811Z NOV 76, (C) USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

181131Z NOV 76)

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 12957 191457Z

1. EMBASSY HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY
RE TEXTS AND TIMING OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SHIP VISITS AND
KENYA INDEPENDENCE DAY FLY-BY. REQUEST COMMENTS AND/OR
CONCURRENCE ASAP.

2. PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT BY U.S. NAVY IN LONDON ON DECEMBER 1
AT 1100 GMT WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"THE U.S. NAVY TODAY ANNOUNCED IN LONDON THAT THE USS
GUAM (LPH-9), AND THE USS CLAUDE V. RICKETTS (DDG-5)
ARE SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT THE SUEZ CANAL TOMORROW,
DECEMBER 2, ENROUTE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. WHILE IN
THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE SHIPS WILL MAKE A ROUTINE CALL
AT THE PORT OF MOMBASA, KENYA. THE TWO SHIPS WILL BE
JOINED BY THE USS DUPONT, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE
U.S. MIDDLE EAST FORCES, WHICH WILL ALSO MAKE A ROUTINE
PORT CALL IN MOMBASA DURING THE SAME TIME FRAME. THE
TASK GROUP WILL BE COMMANDED BY CAPT. T. A. STANELY,
USN, WHO IS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE USS GUAM."

3. RATIONALE FOR CHANGES IN PARA TWO ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PROPOSAL
REF B: KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY DOES NOT WANT REPEAT DOES NOT WANT
ANY REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE DAY IN FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT.
NEITHER KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY NOR EMBASSY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE
NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO ANNOUNCE FLY-BY AT THAT TIME. THERE
HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS VISITS TO MOMBASA BY PACFLT AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED BY FLIGHTS OF ANY KIND OVER KENYAN
TERRITORY. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO REF B PROPOSED QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS.

4. SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE BY KENYA GOVERNMENT
AND USG ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 1200 NAIROBI TIME (0900 GMT)
WHICH WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"THE USS GUAM AND TWO OTHER U.S. NAVY VESSELS WILL
BE VISITING THE PORT OF MOMBASA FOR A FEW DAYS BEGINNING
DECEMBER 9. AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF KENYA, AIRCRAFT BASED ON THE USS GUAM WILL MAKE
A CEREMONIAL FLY-BY AS PART OF THE DECEMBER 12
CELEBRATIONS IN NAIROBI OF KENYA'S 13TH ANNIVERSARY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NAIROB 12957 191457Z

OF INDEPENDENCE."

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT RELATIVELY LOW-KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS
PROPOSED IN PARAS TWO AND FOUR ABOVE WILL HIT JUST THE RIGHT
NOTE INSOFAR AS KENYA AND ITS NEIGHBORS ARE CONCERNED. WE
STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE, AS
WELL AS MILITARY COMMANDS, AVOID ANY REPEAT ANY "BACKGROUND"
PRESS BRIEFINGS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH OCCURRED BEFORE AND DURING

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISIT TO NAIROBI. SUCH RELEASES HAVE
HIGHLY UNSETTLING EFFECT ON PRESIDENT KENYATTA AND OTHER SENIOR
GOK OFFICIALS WHO IN NO WAY APPRECIATE SUPPOSED DISTINCTION
BETWEEN BACKGROUND RELEASES OF INFORMATION AND DIRECT
PRESS RELEASES.

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Message Attributes

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